

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I have not received any written representation. But when I go from place to place I have been told in various places that they were put to much inconvenience. This being a very delicate matter I used to tell the Managers or Headmasters that such things should not be repeated for goodness sake.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Is there any instance where students have been compelled to attend religious classes?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I have been told on many occasions that there have been such instances.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—But is there any complaint of being compelled to attend religious classes?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—There is some sort of compulsion though not the physical compulsion.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—With regard to the students who were dismissed, were their complaints primarily against their remaining till 4-30?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Not primarily against that. This complaint was first presented before me by a petition. The guardians also came a second time and they gave me verbal statement that certain amount of compulsion was made besides being inconvenienced also.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know whether the St. Antony's School, Athicode belongs to the Bishop of Coimbatore?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I do not know. It is run by a Rev. Father.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Is the Manager a Catholic priest?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I think he is a Catholic priest.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Does the Government know that a Catholic priest is not the best man to inspect the teaching of Quran?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—But it is not the inspection of Quran teaching that is required but only that he should appoint a Quran teacher to do the work.

Recommendation for amalgamation of schools.

191. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Adverting to paragraph 20 of the Report on the Educational Survey, by the Director of Public Instruction, will the Government be pleased to state the grounds which prompted the Director to recommend the amalgamation in each of the 10 cases mentioned therein?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Economy in the Government grant and the futility of the duplication of educational effort when the educational needs of a locality can be amply met by one school are the main considerations in all these cases.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—The Government have said that “economy in the Government grant and the futility of the duplication of educational effort when the educational needs of a locality can be amply met by one school are the main considerations in all these cases”. Will the Government be able to make any saving when two schools having good strength are amalgamated?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Yes. Economies can be effected in the matter of giving supervision allowances and such other things.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—But when there are two schools having good strength can the Government expect any saving in the shape of equipment and furniture?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The Hon'ble Member is greatly mistaken if he says that the Government have to look only to the economy so far as Government is concerned. They will have to look to the economy of the public bodies. That will be an uncharitable method of interpretation.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—In paragraph 22 of the Survey Report the Director of Public Instruction says:—“Amalgamation will not lead to economy here as the schools which stand in proximity to one another and invite amalgamation have all good strength, and amalgamation, will not, therefore, make any retrenchment possible”. In view of this statement will the Government be able to state how economy can be effected in these cases also if there is good strength?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Yes. The area which the Hon'ble Member has referred to was surveyed by my Inspecting officer and when of course he suggested this I took only those which could be really amalgamated. It is only after making enquiries of him whether these two schools could be amalgamated even from this point of view that I suggested this course.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—On a point of order. Is not any discussion on this Educational Survey Report at this stage premature?

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—We are only asking for certain information and not discussing upon it.

President.—Though this cannot be said to be a regular discussion on it, I would suggest Hon'ble Members one thing, that this report is going to be referred to a Committee and that it would be better to bring these to that Committee.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—We want to get only some information.

President.—A committee is going to enquire into this very matter. I simply suggest this for the consideration of the Hon'ble Members.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—In many cases where recommendation for amalgamation is made some schools are Girls' schools.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—But many schools which are now called "Boys' schools" are mixed schools.

Fixation of pay of aided school teachers under the Educational Survey Report.

192. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Adverting to paragraph 53 of the Report on the Educational Survey by the Director of Public Instruction, will the Government be pleased to state whether the recommendations contained in (a), (b) and (c) of the said paragraph, are intended to apply only to teachers in Government schools or also those in aided schools?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The Member is referred to paragraph 75 of the Report which prescribes no definite scale of pay for teachers employed in schools under private management but only states that the rates of salary admitted in aided schools should not be in excess of those in Sirkar schools. The recommendations in paragraph 58 are intended to apply to teachers in Government schools.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—The scale of pay proposed is only for teachers in Government schools. May I know why the Director has not proposed any definite scale for teachers in aided service?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I leave it to the management. But the maximum given to those teachers should not exceed the maximum that is allowed to the teachers in Government service.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—So the Government have fixed no minimum?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—But the Government have fixed the minimum amount of grant to be paid as Rs. 10 and Rs. 12/8. So the Managers should pay the teachers at least that much.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—On a point of order. There are some more important questions. May I ask the President to be good enough to extend the question time a little more?

President.—I have already extended the question time by 10 or 15 minutes. It would be uncourteous to the other subjects before us if we extend the question time still further.

Expenditure under uplift of the depressed classes in the current year.

193. മസ്തൂർ കെ. പി. വള്ളോൻ.—ഇക്കാര്യം സംരക്ഷണ വകുപ്പിൽ അന്വദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യയിൽനിന്നും ആകെ ചിലവു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ഉറപ്പിക എത്ര; ഏതേതു ഇനങ്ങളിൽ ചിലവുചെയ്തു?